Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method of performing transactions between disparate systems in a computing environment, said method comprising steps of:

(a)   receiving a first message in a first message format from an originating system, said first message having request data indicative of a transaction request;

(b)   at a first interface, evaluating said first message to ascertain said request data;

(c)   said first interface further applying a predetermined criteria to said request data so as to generate a context data structure organizationally independent of said first message format, said context data structure containing data elements indicative of said transaction request;

(d)   routing said ~~transaction request~~ context data structure to an appropriate service system ~~to~~ through application of topological configuration objects to a predetermined ruleset so that said transaction request can be

responsively fulfilled <u>by acting upon said context data</u>

<u>structure, said topological configuration objects being</u>

<u>modifiable independently of said ruleset</u>;

(e) fulfilling said transaction request at said service

system and indicating same to said first interface; and

(f) issuing via said first interface a second message to

said originating system in said first message format as a first

response message to said transaction request.

2. (Previously amended) The method as set forth in claim

1, wherein said first interface includes a network agent and an

interface agent, said network agent being operative to extract

said request data from said first message and said interface

agent being operative to produce said transaction request

therefrom.

3. (Previously amended) The method as set forth in claim

2, wherein said service system includes a server agent in

communication with said interface agent.

4. (Previously amended) The method as set forth in claim

3, wherein said agents communicate with each other via message

queues.

Please cancel claims 5-7 without prejudice.

8.   (Previously amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said step of fulfilling said transaction request comprises:

(g)   at a second interface, issuing a third message in a second message format to an auxiliary system requesting information;

(h)   receiving a second response message at said second interface in said second message format containing said information; and

(i)   extracting said information from said second response message at said second interface and providing said information to said service system.

9.   (Previously amended) The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein said first message format and said second message format are different protocols.

10.   (Previously amended) The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein said first message format and said second message format are equivalent protocols.

Please cancel claims 11-18 without prejudice.